

REMARKS

These remarks are responsive to the Office Action mailed on July 2, 2009 (“the Office Action”). The Applicants thank the Examiner for a careful and thorough examination of the above-referenced Application and for the indication of allowable subject matter.

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

At the time of the Office Action, claims 32-47, 112 and 115-144 were pending. The Office Action indicated that claims 32-47, 112, 115-118, 134-136, and 138-140 were allowed; claims 119-131, 133, 137, and 141-144 were rejected; and claim 132 was objected to as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. At pages 3-4 of the Office Action, however, the Examiner indicated that claims 112, 117, 118, and 135 were objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.75 as being substantial duplicates of claims 32, 115, 116, and 134, respectively.

With this Response, dependent claim 132 has been rewritten in independent form by adding the limitation of claim 132 into the independent claim (119) from which it depended and canceling claim 132. As a result, amended claim 119 is now allowable, and therefore dependent claims 120-131 depending from allowable amended claim 119 should likewise be allowable. Claims 112, 117, 118, 133, 135, 137, and 141-144 have been canceled without prejudice.

CONCLUSION

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Because this Response has canceled all outstanding rejected claims and accepted the Examiner's invitation to rewrite claim 132 in independent form, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, and its prompt passage to issue is courteously solicited. If the Examiner believes there are any outstanding issues remaining, please feel free to contact the Applicants' counsel.

Respectfully submitted,

MIDDLETON REUTLINGER

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